

**BY ORDER OF THE SECRETARY
OF THE AIR FORCE**

AIR FORCE INSTRUCTION 16-108

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Operations Support

**MANAGING THE AVIATION
LEADERSHIP PROGRAM**



COMPLIANCE WITH THIS PUBLICATION IS MANDATORY

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This publication implements Department of Defense Instruction (DoDI) 2010.12, “*Aviation Leadership Program*,” 18 November, 2008, in accordance with the authorities documented in Headquarters Air Force (HAF) Mission Directive 1-16, *Deputy Under Secretary of the Air Force International Affairs*. It defines the scope of the Aviation Leadership Program (ALP) and provides guidance for managing and administering the ALP. This instruction does not apply to the Air Force Reserve or Air National Guard. This Air Force Instruction (AFI) may be supplemented at any level, but all supplements that directly implement this instruction have to be routed to the Deputy Under Secretary of the Air Force, International Affairs, Security Assistance Policy and International Training and Education Division (SAF/IAPX) for coordination prior to certification and approval. Refer recommended changes and questions about this publication to the Office of Primary Responsibility (OPR) using the AF Form 847, *Recommendation for Change of Publication*; route AF Form 847s from the field through Major Command international affairs or security assistance offices. The authorities to waive wing or unit level requirements in this publication are identified with a Tier (“T-0, T-1, T-2, T-3”) number following the compliance statement. See AFI 33-360, *Publications and Forms Management*, Table 1.1 for a description of the authorities associated with the Tier numbers. Submit requests for waivers through the chain of command to the appropriate Tier waiver approval authority, or alternately, to the Publication OPR for non-tiered compliance items.

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SUMMARY OF CHANGES

This publication is updated to incorporate changes resulting from the HAF directed Compliance Statement Review.

- 1. Purpose.** This AFI provides guidance concerning the United States Air Force (USAF) ALP.
- 2. Program Definition.** The ALP is an Air Force funded Undergraduate Pilot Training (UPT) scholarship program for students from friendly, less-developed countries.
- 3. Overarching Program Goal.** Provide United States (US) pilot training to friendly foreign nations in order to further American interests, promote closer relations with such nations, and advance the national security.
- 4. Eligible Foreign Nations.** In accordance with DoDI 2010.12, 18 November, 2008, “friendly, less-developed Foreign Nations are any nations so designated by the Secretary of the Air Force with the concurrence of the Secretary of Defense”.
- 5. Program Scope.** The ALP consists of:
 - 5.1. Language Training.** English language training at the Defense Language Institute English Language Center.
 - 5.2. Undergraduate Pilot Training.** ALP includes a special UPT program (T-6 only) and Initial Flight Screening.
 - 5.3. DoD Field Studies Program (FSP).** ALP students participate in the Department of Defense (DoD) Field Studies Program (FSP)—as defined in AFI 16-105, *Joint Security Assistance Training (JSAT) Regulation*, 5 June, 2000. The FSP is designed to promote better awareness and understanding of the democratic institutions and social framework of the United States.
- 6. Responsibilities.**
 - 6.1. Deputy Under Secretary of the Air Force International Affairs (SAF/IA).** In accordance with (IAW) HAF Mission Directive 1-16, SAF/IA is delegated Secretary of the Air Force responsibilities authority for DoDI 2012.12.
 - 6.1.1. SAF/IAPX shall:**
 - 6.1.1.1.** Act as the SAF/IA focal point for policy and program issues concerning the ALP.
 - 6.1.1.2.** Initiate an annual call to Combatant Commands for prioritized country nominations within their Area of Responsibility (AOR).
 - 6.1.1.3.** Schedule, organize, and facilitate boards to determine distribution of ALP allocations.
 - 6.1.1.4.** Staff proposed countries to the Defense Security Cooperation Agency at least 30 calendar days before the desired date for offering an ALP scholarship to foreign

country to allow Department of State review and approval (e.g. ensure countries are eligible to participate).

6.1.1.5. Staff board results to CSAF for approval.

6.1.1.6. Provide SAF/IA-signed formal invitations to SAF/IA Country Directors for transmittal to US in-country points of contact (i.e., Security Cooperation Organization (SCO) personnel or US Attachés).

6.1.1.7. Notify Air Education Training Command International Affairs (AETC/IA) and Combatant Commands of Chief of Staff of the Air Force (CSAF) approved allocations.

6.1.1.8. Staff ALP agreements (coordinated with the Office of the Air Force General Counsel, Intelligence, International & Military Affairs) to SAF/IAP for signature.

6.1.2. SAF/IA Regional Divisions will:

6.1.2.1. Provide country recommendations (with rationale and justification) for the ALP prior to, or during, scheduled prioritization boards.

6.1.2.2. Participate in boards to determine ALP allocations.

6.1.2.3. Assist SAF/IAPX in preparing and addressing invitation letters.

6.1.2.4. Forward formal ALP invitations and agreements (if applicable) in-country to SCO and Attaché counterparts for country counter-signature.

6.1.2.5. Provide assistance in resolving ALP matters as well as take chain-of-command reporting actions IAW AFI 16-105, on ALP related incidents, concerns, or problems regarding students within the regional division's AOR.

6.2. Headquarters Air Education and Training Command (AETC) will:

6.2.1. Include ALP resource requirements in its budget request.

6.2.2. Provide Air Force Security Assistance Training (AFSAT) Squadron with a fund cite for student transportation costs and payment of a supplemental living allowance.

6.2.3. Reimburse AFSAT for expenses incurred in providing DoD FSP activities for ALP participants from the Operations and Maintenance account.

6.3. Air Education and Training Command International Affairs (AETC/IA) will:

6.3.1. Serve as the AETC focal point for advising SAF/IA on ALP matters.

6.3.2. Monitor AETC execution of the ALP and provide appropriate ALP guidance within AETC.

6.3.3. Coordinate on all AETC ALP matters (e.g., concerning specific ALP candidates or programmatic issues).

6.4. Air Force Security Assistance Training (AFSAT) Squadron will:

6.4.1. Administer ALP students in accordance with AFI 16-105 (T-2).

6.4.2. Provide ALP candidate information (e.g. bio, flying hours) to the International Military Student Officer at the ALP flying training wing. AFSAT takes action on any concerns or issues raised by the ALP flying training wing.

6.4.3. Monitor ALP student progress and IAW AFI 16-105, paragraph 10-103, ensure SAF/IA regional divisions and SAF/IAPX are notified any issues or concerns (to include AETC/IA or Commander, AFSAT recommended actions) **(T-1)**.

6.4.4. Provide information on the status of ALP students and the program when requested by SAF/IAPX or SAF/IA Country Directors.

6.4.5. Determine FSP costs incurred to support ALP students and request reimbursement from AETC/FM **(T-2)**.

7. ALP Selection and Nomination Methodology.

7.1. **Prioritization.** Countries nominated to receive ALP scholarships are prioritized by a board chaired by SAF/IAPX in accordance with SAF/IA Operating Instruction 16-2.

7.2. Key Considerations.

7.2.1. Combatant Command prioritized nominations (resulting from SAF/IAPX annual call for nominations).

7.2.2. Board inputs and recommendations (i.e., SAF/IA regional divisions, AF/A5XX, CSAF Political Advisor).

7.2.3. Supporting considerations and rationale. Amongst eligible countries with similar engagement priorities, consider the following factors:

7.2.3.1. Foreign air force capability to effectively use ALP candidate (i.e., likelihood of appropriate follow on assignment in country's air force).

7.2.3.2. Foreign air force budget. A country with sufficient cash to purchase modern aircraft systems and flying training should not be considered as a high priority for this USAF program.

7.2.3.3. Existing grant programs. A country receiving small US grant programs should have priority over larger US grant recipients.

7.2.3.4. Existing security cooperation programs. A country with which the USAF has few people-to-people programs or initiatives (i.e., training programs, Personnel Exchange Program, military-to-military contacts) should have priority over countries with which the USAF has many programs.

7.2.3.5. History of attendance. Every effort should be made to ensure distribution of ALP scholarships to maximize the engagement potential of the ALP.

7.2.3.6. Number of quotas. Unless supporting rationale and justification warrants additional quotas, only one ALP quota is allocated per country. CSAF must approve multiple quotas, and the justification provided must meet security cooperation objectives.

8. ALP Candidate Criteria. To achieve program goals, the USAF encourages use of the following criteria to choose ALP candidates:

8.1. An ALP candidate should be a top graduate of the participating country's air force academy or other young officer with potential to achieve top leadership positions in their air force.

8.2. The USAF will accept second or third-year cadets on a case-by-case basis, provided the cadet is considered a member of the country's air force and has a service commitment upon graduation from the academy.

8.3. The USAF considers participation of foreign graduates of the USAF Academy on a case-by-case basis.

9. Program Administration. ALP students are administered the same as International Military Education and Training (IMET) students IAW AFI 16-105, except that costs for ALP students are charged to USAF appropriations.

9.1. **Medical Standards.** Medical standards for flying in USAF aircraft are to be IAW AFI 16-105 with further guidance as outlined in AFI 48-123, *Medical Examinations and Standards*.

9.2. **Language Training.** As stated in para 5.1 above, the ALP includes English language training. ALP candidates must meet established language capability requirements before beginning aviation training. Language pre-requisites established by AETC are currently 85 English Comprehension Level and Oral Proficiency Interview score of 2+/2+.

9.3. **Per Diem, Billeting, Food, and Health Services.** Benefits and allowances are IAW AFI 16-105 for IMET students; however, all charges are to USAF appropriated funds.

9.4. **Dependents.** As stated in AFI 16-105 and ALP agreements, international military students are encouraged not to bring dependents to the US during their training period. ALP student dependents are considered unauthorized dependents IAW AFI 16-105.

HEIDI H. GRANT
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International Affairs

Attachment 1**GLOSSARY OF REFERENCES AND SUPPORTING INFORMATION*****References***

DoD Instruction 2010.12, *Aviation Leadership Program*, 18 November 2008

AFI 48-123, *Medical Examinations and Standards*, 5 November 2013

AFI 16-105, *Joint Security Assistance Training Regulation*, 3 January 2011

AFI 33-360, *Publications and Forms Management*, 25 September, 2013

AFMAN 33-363, *Management of Records*, 1 March 2008

AF Form 847, *Recommendation for Change of Publication*, 22 September 2009

HAF Mission Directive 1-16, *Deputy Under Secretary of the Air Force International Affairs*, 14 January 2015

SAF/IA Operating Instruction 16-2, *International Training Prioritization Boards*, 20 February 2009

Abbreviations and Acronyms

AETC –Air Education Training Command

AETC/IA –Air Education Training Command International Affairs

AFMAN –Air Force Manual

AFSAT –Air Force Security Assistance Training

ALP –Aviation Leadership Program

AOR –Area of Responsibility

CSAF –Chief of Staff of the Air Force

DoDI –Department of Defense Instruction

FSP –Field Studies Program

HAF –Headquarters Air Force

IAW –In Accordance With

IMET –International Military Education Training

OPR –Office of Primary Responsibility

SAF/IA –Deputy Under Secretary of the Air Force, International Affairs

SAF/IAPX –Deputy Under Secretary of the Air Force, International Affairs, Security Assistance Policy and International Training and Education Division

SCO –Security Cooperation Organization

UPT –Undergraduate Pilot Training

US –United States

USAF –United States Air Force